Special funds for natural calamities

2184. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allocate a certain definite sum of money under a special head to meet the expenses in case of natural calamities like floods, draughts, landslides etc. in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) As per the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, the State Governments are primarily responsible for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in the areas affected by natural calamities *viz.* cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, floods, hailstorm, avalanches, cloud brust, landslides and pest attack. The distribution of relief on ground is the responsibility of the concerned State. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistic support, wherever necessary.

The assistance for relief and rehabilitation in the wake of natural calamities is given to the States under the two schemes, *viz.* Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) Schemes. A CRF has been constituted for each State, which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Governments in the ratio 3.1. The State Governments are required to meet expenditure on relief and rehabilitation out of the corpus of the CRF. In case the calamity is of a severe nature and the funds available in the State's CRF account are not sufficient, additional assistance is provided to the States out the NCCF, after following the established procedure. Twelfth Finance Commission has allocated a sum of Rs. 16,000 crores as Centre's share under CRF for its award period 2005-10.

A landslide had emerged in the Varunavat Parvat of Uttarkashi town on 24th September, 2003. The landslide buried a number of houses and business Centres.

The Prime Minister visited Dehradun on 28.01.2004 and had announced as assistance of Rs. 250 crore for undertaking stabilization and other measures at Varunavat Parvat.

An Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs. 50 crore had already been released to the State in two instalments of Rs. 25 crore each on 10th June and 9th December, 2004. The Prime Minister's Office accordingly constituted a Task Force consisting of experts, officials of Government of India and officials of the State Government to identify works to be undertaken for this purpose. The Task Force is headed by the Joint Secretary (NDM) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Task Force in its first meeting held at Dehradun, Uttarkashi, on 28th February, 2004 recommended Rs. 282.04 crores for various projects/ works spread over a period of 5 years for stabilization of Varunavat Parvat at Uttarkashi.

Ministry of Home Affairs has recommended in April, 2006 Rs. 50 crore for release to the Government of Uttaranchal for Stabilisation of Varunavat Parvat in Uttaranchal as approved by the Task Force during 2006-07.

The ACA of Rs. 50.00 crores would be released shortly.

Receipt of AIR data by IT Department

2185. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income-tax Department has received Annual Information Return (AIR) in respect of financial year, 2005-06 from Registrar or sub-Registrar, banking companies, financial institutions, mutual funds, etc. and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the income Tax Department has compared the AIR data with those filed in tax return by individuals, companies, etc. and the details of discrepancies noticed therein; and

(c) the action taken to check tax evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Up to 10.11.2006, the Income Tax Department has received 2259 AIRs for financial year 2005-06 which contain details of 16,84,709 transactions involving Rs. 16,39,024 crores.

(b) Central Board of Direct Taxes have issued instructions to its field formation for scrutinizing the returns of income for assessment year 2005-06 (corresponding to financial year 2004-05) on the basis of AIRs for financial year 2004-05.